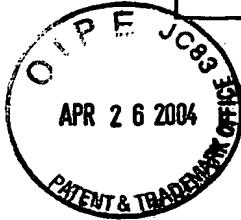


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Art Unit: 1624

GRIEL ET AL.

Examiner: Mark L. Berch

APPLICATION NO: 10/001,544

FILED: OCTOBER 31, 2001

FOR: CRYSTALLINE BETA-LACTAM INTERMEDIATE

Commissioner for Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

The Office Action of November 26, 2003 has a shortened statutory time set to expire on February 26, 2004. A two-month extension is hereby requested pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136(a).

Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis in the amount of \$420 for payment of the extension fee. An additional copy of this paper is here enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR §1.17 which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis.

04/26/2004 SDIRETAK 00000023 190134 10001544

02 FC:1252 420.00 DA

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Building 430
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080

Date: April 26, 2004

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